

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please note that a Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”) and the appropriate fee have been filed with this Amendment/Reply.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10-20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0179237 by Nelson et al. (“Nelson”) in view of “The Digital Magazine of InfoVis.net: Focus + Content” by Juan C. Dursteler (“Dursteler”). In addition, Claims 5-7, 9, 21, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson in view of Dursteler and further in view of “Presentation for CGDI Workshop - May 2002” by Idelix Software Inc. (“CGDI”). Furthermore, Claims 25-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CGDI in view of Dursteler.

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended with a view to better defining the invention. No new matter has been entered by these amendments. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the amended claims in view of the following comments.

Claim 1

For reference, amended Claim 1 recites the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for positioning a selected object in an original image for display on a display screen, comprising:

distorting said original image to produce a distorted region for said object, said object being positioned at an initial position within said original image, said distorted region including magnification of at least a portion of said object;
receiving a signal for dragging said object with said distorted region from said initial position to a desired position for said object within said original image; and,
receiving a signal for dropping said object at said desired position, whereby said distorted region with said magnification facilitates accurate positioning of said object at said desired position.

On pages 3-4 of the Office Action the Examiner cites a combination of Dursteler and Nelson against Claim 1 stating (underlining added by the Applicant):

“As to independent claim 1, Dursteler describe(s): distorting the original image to produce a distorted region for the object at an initial position within the original image (‘...distortion of the periphery...,’ p. 1), the distorted region including magnification of at least a portion of the object (‘...of the zone of constant magnification...,’ p. 1); receiving a signal for dragging the object with the distorted region from the initial position (‘...placing a lens...,’ p.1), to a desired position within the original image (see the ‘Move Lens’ mouse signal indicator in bottom left-hand side figure on p.1); and, receiving a signal for dropping the object at the desired position (see the ‘Place Lens’ mouse signal indicator in bottom left-hand side figure on p. 1), whereby the distorted region with the magnification facilitates accurate positioning of the object at the desired position (‘...so that we have higher accuracy and control in the center of the lens...’ p. 1)....Notwithstanding several suggestions therein, Dursteler does not expressly teach that the method for positioning a selected object in an original image is done through the lens. Nelson et al. teaches a method for positioning a selected object in an original image for display on a display screen (‘...moving the object into view...,’ para. [0072]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the editing method of Nelson et al. with the lens of Dursteler because the former advocates the distortion method of the latter (‘...fisheye...,’ para. [0051]) for the same type editing functions (‘...Accordingly, it would be an advancement in the art to provide a system and method which allows objects to be arranged, displayed, and manipulated in a non-uniform manner...,’ para. [0011]).”

For reference, the selection from page 1 of Dursteler cited by the Examiner above, recites the following:

“...PDT has a similar effect to placing a lens in front of the image or document that we want to look at. This lens, unlike the conventional ones, has a portion of the same that reduces the magnification gradually until you reach 0...This way the centre of the lens show us the detail of what is of our interest while the distortion of the periphery creates a deformed transition

that allows us to see the context without losing information...The advantages of a digital lens like this lie in the fact that the magnification, the size and shape of the whole lens and of the zone of constant magnification, the type of distortion, are all easily configurable parameters. This way we can customize a lens that comprehends the properties of zoom scroll pan, and separate views..."

For reference, paragraphs 0011, 0051, and 0072 of Nelson, cited by the Examiner above, recite the following (the abstract, paragraphs 0050, 0071, and 0073 added for context by the Applicant; underlining added by the Applicant):

"Abstract...A Graphical User Interface ("GUI") that provides a user with the ability to manipulate display objects in a non-uniform manner on a display surface is provided. For example, a user can manipulate an object so that it appears, torn, bent, folded, angled, etc. Additionally, a method and system for digitally attaching display objects to a display surface is described. The attachments include digital staples, digital push-pins, digital tape, etc. In still another aspect of the present invention a technique for transmitting and updating the display of non-uniform objects is described."

"[0011] One of the drawbacks of currently existing GUIs, such as the ones described above, is that the each have the implicit design assumption of arranging display objects with regularity: tiled, windowed, squares, rectangles, etc. Accordingly, it would be an advancement in the art to provide a system and method which allows objects to be arranged, displayed, and manipulated in a non-uniform manner."

"[0050] According to an embodiment of the invention, image transformations are used in conjunction with interaction capabilities, such as clipping, digital material processing **701**, direct manipulation management **702**, and external interaction management **703**, as will be described in detail below to perform various features and capabilities of the present invention. These image transformations may be applied based on dynamic user input or other dynamic processes, such as simultaneous programs or other autonomous agents."

“[0051] Examples of image transformations include, but are not limited to, automatic border removal, bulge, contrast, curl page, cut, cut and paste, edge detection, edge enhancement, fish eye, holes, increased/decreased colors, invert, mesa, mosaic, radial, rectangular, reflowing, rotate by degree, segmentation, shading, shadowing, sharpen, stretching and shrinking, tile, transition effects, transparency, vortex, warping, wave, and zoom.”

“[0071] Extending Objects Beyond the Display Area”

“[0072] FIGS. 12A and 12B illustrate examples of an embodiment of the present invention which allows for objects to be extended beyond the display area **1200**. For example, in FIG. 12A objects **1201**, **1202** and **1203** may be angled at a position where a portion of each object is outside of the viewing area **1200**. Viewing these objects **1201**, **1202** and **1203** may be accomplished by moving the display view, for example pan and zoom, or moving the object into view, as illustrated in FIG. 12B.”

“[0073] Various interactions may be made to facilitate these changes of view. In an embodiment, an interaction point is included on each partially-viewed object that, when activated, will bring that object permanently or temporarily into view. For example, touching the corner of a clipped object may move it into view or change the display view by automatically initiating the appropriate pan and/or zoom.”

For reference, FIGS. 12A and 12B from Nelson are reproduced below.

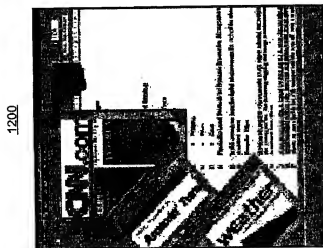


FIG. 12B

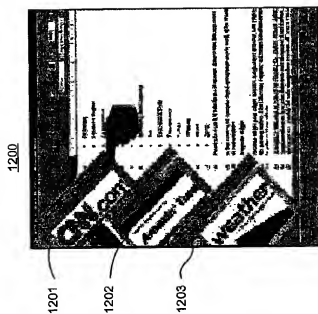


FIG. 12A

First, with respect to the step of “receiving a signal for dragging said object with said distorted region from said initial position to a desired position for said object within said original image” as recited in amended Claim 1, the selection from Dursteler cited by the Examiner simply describes elements of a graphical user interface for adjusting a lens (i.e., a distorted region) that has been applied to an original image (e.g., the left hand images of the skull and the space shuttle). Dursteler does not teach or suggest the dragging of an object in the original image to which a lens has been applied as the Examiner suggests. The “Move Lens” icon in Dursteler is for moving the lens to a new position in the original image while displaying the entire lens during movement. The “Move Lens” icon of Dursteler cannot be used to move an object in the original image. This icon is fully described in the Applicant’s United States Patent No. 7,197,719. As such, Dursteler does not teach or suggest that element of amended Claim 1 that recites: “receiving a signal for dragging said object with said distorted region from said initial position to a desired position for said object within said original image”.

Second, with respect to the step of “receiving a signal for dropping said object at said desired position” as recited in amended Claim 1, the selection from Dursteler cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest the dropping of an object in the original image to which the lens has been applied as the Examiner suggests. The “Place Lens” icon in Dursteler is for moving the lens to a new position in the original image while displaying just the perimeter of the lens during movement. The “Place Lens” icon of Dursteler cannot be used to drop an object in the original image. Again, this icon is fully described in the Applicant’s United States Patent No. 7,197,719. As such, Dursteler does not teach or suggest that element of amended Claim 1 that recites: “receiving a signal for dropping said object at said desired position”.

Third, Dursteler does not teach or suggest that element of previous Claim 1 that recites: “whereby said distorted region with said magnification facilitates accurate positioning of said object at said desired position”. Dursteler does not teach accurate positioning of an object in the original image. All Dursteler teaches is application of a lens to an original image or an object in the original image.

Fourth, the Examiner states: “Nelson et al. teaches a method for positioning a selected object in an original image for display on a display screen (‘...moving the object into view...,’ para. [0072]).” However, what paragraph 0072 of Nelson actually teaches is the extension of objects (i.e., windows) beyond the display area on a screen followed by reintroduction of the objects to the display area. Paragraph 0073 of Nelson (reproduced above) teaches that the objects are reintroduced by including an “interaction point” on each object that when selected “will bring that object permanently or temporarily into view”. Thus, Nelson does not pertain to accurate positioning of objects by drop and drag operations. As such, Nelson does not teach or suggest any of those elements of amended Claim 1 that recite: “distorting said original image to produce a distorted region for said object, said object being positioned at an initial position within said original image, said distorted region including magnification of at least a portion of said object”; “receiving a signal for dragging said object with said distorted region from said initial position to a desired position for said object within said original image”; and, “receiving a signal for dropping said object at said desired position, whereby said distorted region with said magnification facilitates accurate positioning of said object at said desired position”.

Fifth, given the fourth comment above, the Examiner has not provided an adequate reason for combining Dursteler and Nelson.

As such, the Applicant believes that amended Claim 1 is patentable over Dursteler and Nelson as these references do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended Claim 1. In addition, the Applicant believes that Claims 2-24, being dependent on amended Claim 1 and adding patentable features thereto, are also patentable over Dursteler and Nelson.

Claim 25

For reference, amended Claim 25 recites the following:

25. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a presentation of a region-of-interest within an original image for display on a display screen, comprising:

displaying a toolbar within said original image and over said region-of-interest, said toolbar having means for selecting at least one parameter for adjusting a distortion function for said region-of-interest, said distortion function having a focal region with a magnification for said region-of-interest at least partially surrounded by a base region across which said magnification decreases to that of said original image; receiving a signal selecting said at least one parameter through said toolbar; transforming said original image with said distortion function as adjusted by said at least one parameter to produce said presentation; and, displaying said presentation on said display screen.

On pages 11-12 of the Office Action the Examiner cites a combination of CGDI and Dursteler against Claim 25 stating (underlining added by the Applicant):

“As to dependent claim 25, CGDI teaches a method for a presentation of a region-of-interest on a display screen (see pp. 12), the region-of-interest comprising: displaying a toolbar over the region-of-interest with means for selecting a least one parameter for adjusting a distortion function the region-of-interest (see toolbar above, pp. 12, 14, and 15), the focal region (see toolbar above, pp. 12, 14, and 15), having an operable focal and base region (see toolbar above, pp. 12, 14, and 15); transforming the in accordance with a predetermined distortion function and the at least one parameter through the toolbar, the original image transformed (e.g. pp. 12, 14, and 15). CGDI does not show selecting the at least one parameter from the toolbar with a point device. Dursteler, teaches selecting the at least one parameter from the toolbar with a pointing device (mouse pointer icon for selecting parameters, pp. 1, see Figure towards bottom). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have used the mouse pointer shown in Dursteler with CGDI because both are directed toward identical Pliable Display

Technology, being deployed in identical ways, for accomplishing identical objects, of identical problems.”

In the screen captures shown on pages 12 and 14 of CGDI, a toolbar is displayed over a window containing a presentation in which a lens has been applied to a region-of-interest. The toolbar is not shown as being displayed over the region-of-interest in the presentation. To repeat, the toolbars shown on pages 12 and 14 of CGDI are simply displayed above a window. Similarly, in the screen capture shown on page 15 of CGDI, a toolbar is displayed over a window containing an original 3D image (i.e., of the bones of the foot). No region-of-interest is discernable on page 15. The toolbar is not shown as being displayed over a region-of-interest in the original image. To repeat, the toolbar shown on page 15 of CGDI is simply displayed above a window.

Thus, in none of pages 12, 14, and 15 of CGDI is a toolbar shown as being displayed over a region-of-interest within an original image. Rather, the toolbar shown on each of these pages is located over the window containing the original image. That is, the toolbar shown on each of these pages is not located within the original image.

As such, CGDI does not teach or suggest that element of amended Claim 25 that recites: “displaying a toolbar within said original image and over said region-of-interest”.

As such, the Applicant believes that amended Claim 25 is patentable over CGDI and Dursteler as these references do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended Claim 25. In addition, the Applicant believes that Claims 26-33, being dependent on amended Claim 25 and adding patentable features thereto, are also patentable over CGDI and Dursteler.

No new matter has been entered by the above noted amendments.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Conneely", is written over a horizontal line.

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